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view of the fact that so large a part of the American negro population has come from these stocks, may be taken as giving the essence of his views on our own race problem. He would have European holders of African territory leave slavery intact until the demand for labor can be met by voluntary enlistment, which of course means until the natives have been put through a careful apprenticeship under the tutelage of the white man. Education should be limited to the practical arts. Above all, race pride and solidarity should be fostered, so that Africans may have models of their own for imitation instead of aping the whites. Missionaries are urged to abstain from teaching the "false philosophy of the equality of all races." In fact Dowd's attitude is that of the best type of the southern man, just, toleran and disposed to make the most thorough investigation, but with certain preconceptions unalterably fixed in the mind.

The book gives an admirable summary of the available information about the central and southern African races. It makes no pretense of originality as to facts, and uses first- or second-hand sources indiscriminately. Certain examples of colloquialism, not to say slang, mar the impression of scientific seriousness, e. g. "gets his back up" (p. 288) and "varmint" (p. 271). Some of the generalizations are of doubtful validity, but the general plan of the book is excellent and the series which it inaugurates promises to be an exceedingly useful one.

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Social Psychology. An Outline and Source Book. By EDWARD ALSWORTH ROSS. Professor of Sociology in the University of Wisconsin. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1908. Pp. xvi, 372. \$1.50 net).

Sociology has often been described as social psychology. While this is perhaps an extreme view, since sociology has evident biological aspects, it is generally recognized by sociologists that social psychology constitutes a large part, if not the major part, of sociology. A systematic treatise on the subject, delimiting its field and indicating its problems if nothing more, should be welcomed, therefore, by all students of the social sciences.

Professor Ross confesses to the difficulty, of his task, and invites his critics "to lay on right heartily," for, by pointing out errors, they will be triumphing *with* him, not *over* him. Believing with the author that only thus can science be aided, the writer of this notice will make it frankly critical, without, however, going into details, but dealing only with the general features of the work.

In the first place, Professor Ross' conception of social psychology seems unduly narrow and inconsistent with his general sociological positions. He limits social psychology to the study "of the psychic planes and currents that come into existence among men in consequence of their association." It deals only with "the uniformities in feeling, belief, or volition which are due to the interaction of human beings." By the very terms of this definition the consideration of those social uniformities due to instinct, to racial traits, and to common physical environment is expressly excluded from social psychology, as Professor Ross himself recognizes. It is evident also, though the author does not recognize it so clearly, that the consideration of the psychology of social conflict as such and of social variations and changes is excluded. These phenomena, according to the definition, can be considered in social psychology, not as problems in themselves, but only as factors or causes in the establishment of psychic planes or currents in society.

The ambiguity of the phrase "social psychology" has elsewhere been pointed out by the reviewer.¹ It is evident that it may mean either the psychology of the genesis of the so-called social states of consciousness in the individual, in which case it is a part of individual psychology, or the psychological interpretation of human interactions, that is, the psychological aspect of sociology. Now, Professor Ross expressly denies that the subject of which he is treating is the psychological aspect of sociology, and on the other hand he elsewhere² expressly affirms that social psychology is to be regarded as "the lower story of sociology." It would seem to the reviewer that there is no third possible field for social psychology other than the two pointed out above, and that what Professor Ross has really done in this book has been to fence off

¹ *American Journal of Sociology*, XIII, 336, 337.

² *Foundations of Sociology*, 8.

a part of the field of psychological sociology and call it social psychology—a procedure wholly arbitrary and untenable.

A careful examination of the contents of the book serves but to confirm this conclusion. After the first chapter the whole book is taken up with a discussion of the social effects of suggestion and of conventional and customary imitation, following, for the most part, the lines laid down by Tarde. If a definition of social psychology were to be inferred from the contents of the book it would be this: "Social psychology is that part of sociology in which imitation is a sufficient explaining principle." Nothing is said about the rôle of instinct in human society, very little about the causes of social conflict except as these are found in imitation, and very little about the function of such psychical products of association as public opinion.

This brings me to another general criticism of the book, and that is, that the point of view is static rather than dynamic or evolutionary. Elsewhere³ Professor Ross has implied, and rightly, that the problem of social *change* is the principal problem of sociology. But one searches this book in vain to find anything specific on the psychology of social changes. Nowhere is the socio-psychical method or mechanism by which social changes are brought about pointed out. The whole emphasis of the book is laid upon the great social uniformities, custom and convention, rather than upon social changes. Social habit, rather than social adaptation, furnishes the point of view. Put in psychological terms, Professor Ross' point of view is non-functional. His psychology is still largely that of the old school, and his pages refer scarcely at all to the writings of James, Angell, Thorndike, and other leaders of the new functional psychology.

Nevertheless, it must not be inferred from these criticisms that the book is not a valuable contribution to sociological literature, entirely worthy of its author. As a treatise on custom and convention it will probably supersede all other works in English. If it does not cover the whole field of social psychology it leaves little to be done in this particular part of the field.

Professor Ross has arranged the book as a text, with "summary" and "exercises" at the end of each chapter, and suggests

³ *Foundations of Sociology*, 185-189.

that it should precede a course in general sociology. It would seem to the reviewer, however, that beginning students should be put upon more tangible and concrete problems than those afforded by suggestion and imitation, custom and convention.

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Natives of Australia. By NORTHCOTE W. THOMAS. (London: Archibald Constable and Company, 1906. Pp. xii, 256.)

Kinship Organizations and Group Marriage in Australia. By NORTHCOTE W. THOMAS. (Cambridge: University Press, 1906. Pp. xiii, 163.)

The first of these volumes is a non-technical account of the Australian aborigines, and is the first of *The Native Races of the British Empire* series, of which Mr. Thomas is editor. It gives an outline of the linguistic, industrial, social and religious characteristics of the natives, is amply illustrated, and has a map showing the distribution of the tribes. In his *Kinship Organizations* Mr. Thomas goes into a more critical discussion of the present aspects of the problems of Australian social organization. He combats Morgan's theory of original promiscuity out of which group marriage was developed. He likewise takes issue with Spencer and Gillen, and Howitt with reference to assigning a literal meaning to the terms of relationship in use at the present time. Both as a summary of the evidence on the questions in dispute and for its original contribution to their discussion the book is one of value.

U. G. W.

Essays in Municipal Administration. By JOHN A. FAIRLIE. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1908. Pp. vii, 374. \$2.50 net.)

Dr. Fairlie is always interesting and instructive when he writes on municipal topics; but the present volume is not up to his earlier ones either in interest or value. Very likely this is